



Home of the Official
Gold Mining Interpretive
Center for the
Commonwealth of Virginia



Welcome to the Gold Mining Camp Museum at Monroe Park!



In order to celebrate and commemorate this important chapter of our history, the Gold Mining Camp Museum, the Commonwealth of Virginia's official Gold Mining Interpretive Center, was established at Monroe Park in the village of Goldvein, not far from the sites of 19 gold mines.

From left, the Bunk House, Mess Hall and Assay Office are open and ready for you to explore. They are based on actual mine buildings found in Fauquier County during the gold mining days of the early 20th century. Come inside and see the exhibits and displays which examine the fascinating history of the gold mining industry and the story of the miners.

Assay Office:

The Assay Office is where the gold from the mine would be assessed and the purity, weight, and value of the gold determined. This was also the business office for the camp.

Mess Hall:

This structure would be used as a gathering place and dining area for the miners.

Bunk House:

The Bunk House is a spartan building where the miners would keep their personal items, sleep and spend much of their free time.

Hornet Balls - These seven ton crushing balls were used to crush ore to free the gold. Although still a mystery, these balls were found at a mine site one mile from the museum.

THEMES OF THE GOLD MINING CAMP MUSEUM

The primary interpretive objectives of the Gold Mining Camp Museum are to interpret the story of gold mining within the context of the search for gold in Virginia and North America; to personalize this history by portraying everyday life in a gold mining camp; and to develop the museum into a visitor attraction related to gold mining. The museum presents reconstructed 1930s mine buildings, an assay office, bunkhouse and mess hall, with displays inside the buildings and on the grounds. Park staff interprets the history of gold mining for the public and with the extremely successful Historic Education program. Over the last 5 years, over 3000 people of all ages have learned about the gold mining history of the area from this program. Future plans include outdoor wayside exhibits, living history programs and community outreach projects.

